



## **Alcohol and Tobacco Control State of Louisiana**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **ATC Agents Issue Over 800 Citations During Summer Crackdown**

August 11, 2015

**Baton Rouge, LA** - Agents with the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control conducted 5,474 compliance checks during the agency's 2015 Summer Crackdown and issued 821 citations. Of those citations, 460 were issued for alcohol sales to a minor and 361 were issued for tobacco sales to a minor. Approximately 15% of the businesses checked during the Summer Crackdown actually sold alcohol and/or tobacco to an underage operative, which is in line with previous years.

The summer initiative is an attempt by ATC to follow through on its mission to prevent access of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products to underage persons. Statistics show an increase in teenage alcohol consumption during summer months. Most of the operatives used were 16 and 17 years old.

"We are not satisfied with a 15% non-compliance rate, but the good news is that 85% did the right thing. There is nothing good that can come out of selling alcohol or tobacco to a minor and ATC will hold those that sold accountable," said Commissioner Troy Hebert.

This is the third year Commissioner Hebert has ordered ATC agents to increase the number of random compliance checks at alcohol and tobacco retail outlets statewide during the summer. Anyone caught selling or serving alcohol or tobacco products to minors are subject to criminal and/or administrative charges. Businesses and servers face fines that range from \$500.00 to \$5,000.00, and penalties that could result in suspension or revocation of their alcohol and tobacco permits.

**For more information, please contact:**

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